

WDMT Most Significant Issues 3rd Quarter – July through September 2020

We aired national news broadcasts from NPR News at the top of each hour during our Morning Drive (6-10 a.m.) and Evening Drive (3-6 p.m.) as well as at the beginning and end of our Noon Hour Magazine (12 and 1 p.m.). At the bottom of each hour during the Morning and Evening Drive-times, we alternated airing state news reports from the Virginia News Network (VNN) and WV Metro News. VNN news also aired at 12:30, during Noon Hour Magazine, and WV Metro News aired at 12:55. These programs run Monday through Friday. We also carried NPR National News at Noon on Saturday and Sunday. Our local news stories aired after NPR News at the beginning of Noon Hour Magazine. They would then repeat at the top and bottom of each hour during the Evening Drive and the following day's Morning Drive. Here is a summary of the most significant issues covered in our local news this quarter.

County Government

We aired reports from each meeting of the Pocahontas County Commission and reported the agenda for each meeting the day before. County Commission reports this quarter aired on 7/8, 7/23, 8/7, 8/19, 8/24 (PMH USDA loan), 9/2 (Diversion pgm), and 9/22 (animal shelter employees).

Court /Crime/Breaking News

On 8/17, we aired a story about the WV Attorney General's office joining the Attorney's General of forty-four other states in asking the US Congress to pass a law to help seniors victimized by fraud. If passed, seniors may be able to recover some of the funds they have lost to scammers.

On 9/28, we aired a story from the West Virginia Attorney General's office about social security number scams currently in practice in the state.

Election Stories

News Briefs

On 5/18, we aired an update on the COVID-19 cases being reported in Pocahontas.

Education

We aired reports from Board of Education meetings this quarter and aired agendas for each meeting the day of the meeting. Board of Education reports this quarter aired on 7/1, 7/2, 7/3, 7/7, 7/13 (new board members), 7/24 (changes to school calendar), 7/27 (re-entry for fall), 7/28, 7/29, 8/13, 8/14, 9/3, 9/10 (Poc in the orange category), 9/17 (explanation of COVID school map), 9/23 (first weeks of school), and 9/29.

On 7/14, we aired an interview with Lynn Bostic, the new Director of Curriculum for Pocahontas County schools.

Agriculture and Environment

Each day, during Noon Hour Magazine, we aired a regionally-produced three-minute news magazine feature about topics related to agriculture. Agriculture is a major industry in our listening area, and being produced in the Shenandoah Valley, On the Farm Radio, is relevant to our listeners.

We air periodic features by volunteer reporter Jason Bauserman, our “Bartow Weatherman”. He has been collecting weather information for many years, and his reports are a review of the weather conditions for the previous month. This quarter his reports ran on 8/11 and 9/10.

On 7/1, we aired a story about fireworks safety tips from the WV Attorney General’s office.

On 8/25, we aired a story about the Monongahela National Forest seeking public comment from the rock-climbing community concerning access to climbing features such as Seneca Rocks and the Smoke Hole Canyon. The story also mentioned that appointments are now available at various district offices to apply for a 2020 Ginseng harvesting permit.

Community

On 7/10 we aired an interview with an FCC expert about the television rescan process so residents can still access local television channels. Some of the local channels are changing frequencies due to the need for expanded spectrum for cell phones and other carriers.

On 7/17, we aired a story about updates related to COVID-19 in Pocahontas County from the WV Dept of Health and Human Resources (DHHR).

On 7/22, we aired a report about a Pocahontas Memorial Hospital employee testing positive for COVID-19 and the precautions being taken to protect the employee, their colleagues, and the public at large.

On 8/27, we aired an interview with video historians Wayne Worth and Johnnaston Kimble who have documented every county in West Virginia. They are now working on a series of videos about the state parks of West Virginia.

On 9/11, we aired an interview with Cara Rose, Executive Director of the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau about planning the county bicentennial celebration that will kick off in 2021.

On 9/16, we aired an update on the progress of the 2020 Census reporting in the Allegheny Highlands. The latest numbers show that Bath, Highland and Pocahontas are all well under the 50th percentile when it comes to the number of households who have provided their data to the US government.

People

On 7/30, we aired an interview with Julie Garner, the founder of Project Yellow Light. This non-profit organization offers scholarship prizes to high school and college age students who create messages about the dangers of distracted driving.

On 8/7, we aired a second story about the Project Yellow Light competition. This story included interviews with two of the 2020 video category winners.

Jobs and Development

On 9/22, we aired a story about a new business, Hiner Town Trout Fishing, which is a fish for a fee trout pond.

Virginia Public Radio

We have entered into an agreement with Virginia Public Radio to be able to rebroadcast stories produced by reporters who work for VPR. This gives AMR an additional source of well-produced state news. This quarter, these stories aired on 7/8 (rural jails), 7/9 (anti-discrimination housing), 7/21 and 7/24 (2-part Bath County feature), 7/27, 8/12, 8/17, 8/28, 8/31, 9/7, 9/9, 9/14, 9/15, and 9/21.

West Virginia Public Radio

We occasionally carry stories produced by West Virginia Public Broadcasting. During this quarter these stories aired on

Arts and Culture

During this quarter we aired a movie review feature during Noon Hour Magazine on Monday's called *Reel Discovery*. This quarter the program aired on 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, and 9/28.

During this quarter we aired a feature called Travelers In The Night, about asteroids, comets and other interstellar phenomena. This feature aired on 8/27, 9/3, 9/4, 9/10, 9/17, and 9/24.

This quarter we aired the arts and culture feature Allegheny Mountain Showcase and Arts Calendar, with its emphasis on local artists and events in the Allegheny highlands of the two Virginias. The Arts Calendar features a calendar of upcoming arts events. The Showcase focuses on a particular artist, group and venue. **During this quarter this feature aired on - Feature temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.**

Public Service Announcements

Below is a list of Public Service Announcements aired this quarter:

Education and Children

Health and Human Resources

WV Mask Mandate	7/7 through 9/30
Copes Support Line	8/11 thru 9/30
Pocahontas Memorial Hospital Guidelines	8/18 thru 9/30

Benefits and Fundraisers

Alzheimers Association Memory Help

7/15 thru 8/30

Art, Culture, and Recreation

Summer Propagation Interference

7/21 thru 8/31